

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for processing an international passenger, the method comprising:

entering information identifying the passenger a first time into a computer interface;

recording a first electronic image of the passenger;

comparing a prior image of the passenger to the first image;

sending data identifying the passenger to a government or governmental agent in a destination country;

entering information identifying the passenger a second time into a compute interface;

recording a second electronic image of the passenger;

comparing the second image to a prior image of the passenger; and

routing the passenger in accordance with the data and an instruction from the government or governmental agent.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the first electronic image is recorded in an originating country.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second electronic image is recorded in a destination country.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second electronic image is recorded on an aircraft.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the electronic image is selected from the group consisting of a photograph, a fingerprint, a palm print, an iris scan, and a voiceprint.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising entering data indicative of flight information for the passenger into the computer interface.

5 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising retrieving data of passengers scheduled for a flight from a first computer memory and storing the data in a second computer memory.

10 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein comparing the prior image to the first image is performed by a computer with software selected from the group consisting of feature recognition software, voice recognition software, and facial recognition software.

15 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising taking a subsequent image of the passenger and comparing the subsequent image to the first electronic image, and routing the passenger according to a result of a comparison of the first electronic image and the subsequent image.

20 10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising filling out a customs declaration form, entering the form into the computer memory, sending the form to the government or governmental agent, and routing the passenger in accordance with the government or governmental agent.

25 11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising electronically inspecting baggage of the passenger, making a record of the electronic inspecting, entering the record into the computer memory, sending the form to the government or governmental agent, and routing the baggage in accordance with the government or governmental agent.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising giving the passenger notice of an instruction of the government or government agent.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein no instruction is received from the government or governmental agent, and the passenger is not required to process through customs or immigration.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein no instruction is received from the government or governmental agent, and the passenger is automatically required to process through customs or immigration or both customs and immigration.

15. An apparatus for processing an international passenger from a first nation to a second nation, the apparatus comprising:  
a check-in counter having a first computer interface;  
a first computer memory linked to the first computer interface;  
a second computer memory linked to the first computer interface, wherein a user transfers data concerning the international passenger from the first computer memory to the second computer memory;

first means for entering information concerning the international passenger into at least one computer memory;

a customs form stored in at least one computer memory; and

a baggage inspection system,

wherein the check-in counter, second computer memory, first means for entering information, and baggage inspection system are located in a first nation, and wherein information from a passport of the passenger is entered into the second computer memory, the passenger fills out a customs form and stores said form into a computer memory, and a record from a baggage inspection of

the baggage of the international passenger is stored in at least one computer memory;

an immigration counter having a second computer interface;

second means for entering information concerning the international passenger into at least one computer memory, said second means linked to the second computer interface; and

means for outputting an instruction for the passenger,

wherein the immigration counter, second means for entering information and means for outputting an instruction are located in a second nation, and wherein information from a passport of the passenger is entered into a memory of the second computer interface and an instruction for the passenger is printed at the immigration counter.

16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the first and second means for entering information are a first camera and a second camera for taking an electronic image of the international passenger, said first camera linked to the first computer interface of the check-in counter and said second camera linked to the second computer interface of the immigration counter.

17. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the first means and second means for entering information are selected from the group consisting of a computer interface, a document scanner, a card scanner, a microphone, and a barcode scanner.

18. The apparatus of Claim 15, further comprising a remote camera for recording an image of the international passenger, said remote camera linked to a computer in the first nation.

19. The apparatus of Claim 15, further comprising software selected from the group consisting of feature recognition software, voice recognition software, and facial recognition software, accessible by at least one computer or computer interface at the check-in counter or immigration counter.

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20. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the means for outputting an instruction is selected from the group consisting of a computer interface with instructions for the passenger and a printer that prints instructions for the passenger.

21. The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein the printed instructions are color-coded.

22. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the first computer memory contains a database of customer information.

23. A method of processing an international traveler from a first country to a second country, the method comprising:

dividing the processing into three parts, wherein the passenger, baggage of the passenger, and information concerning the passenger and baggage of the passenger, are sent from the first country to the second country;

gathering information and sending information concerning the passenger and baggage of the passenger, wherein information concerning the passenger and the baggage of the passenger is automatically gathered and processed, and sent to a government official of the second country;

sending the baggage through an electronic baggage inspection, sending the baggage to the second country, and routing the baggage to a location

selected from the group consisting of customs, a baggage claim area, and a connecting flight of the passenger; and

5 sending the passenger from the first country to the second country, and then sending the passenger to further processing selected from the group consisting of customs, immigration, and no further processing.

24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising scheduling travel of a passenger, and transferring data concerning the passenger from a first computer memory to a second computer memory.

25. The method of Claim 23, further comprising filling out an electronic customs form and saving the form into a memory of a computer.

26. The method of Claim 23, wherein the passenger proceeds to an Immigration booth upon arrival in the second country to automatically verify his or her identification and to receive instructions for proceeding.